



SHATTERPROOF

overcoming life's trials

WELCOME

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FIGHTING FAVORITISM

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ How do you tend to describe a person to someone who doesn't know them? What qualities do you focus on?
- ◆ What kinds of people are you most comfortable with? What people or behaviors make you feel uncomfortable?

DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to show favoritism?
2. Read [Acts 2:42-47](#). How would you describe the relationships between the first believers? List the attitudes you see them exhibit. What was their impact on those around them?
3. Read [James 2:1-4](#). What attitudes and behaviors are described here? How are believers in Jesus told to think and behave? What does verse 4 say is the source of these thoughts and behaviors?
4. How do you see favoritism and discrimination shown in our world? Why are some people often favored and others discriminated against? In what ways have you seen favoritism and discrimination expressed in the church today? What do these attitudes and behaviors do to the effectiveness of the church in sharing the good news about Jesus with others? How is this different from the believers described in Acts 2?
5. What has your own personal experience been with being around people who are different from you? How do you treat them and how do they treat you?
6. Read [James 2:5-7](#). How were the rich treating the poor? How did James describe the poor? What is a person doing when they dishonor someone (vs. 7)? [Galatians 3:28](#) was written about the same time as James. How does it further support the importance of not treating different people differently?
7. Read [Matthew 25:44-45](#). What do these verses say to you about what is really going on when we treat those who are poor poorly? Who also is impacted when we snub someone based on their looks, bank account, skin color, etc.?
8. Read [Isaiah 64:6](#) and [John 3:16](#). Does God play favorites? How many of us have become unclean? For how many of us did God send His Son to redeem?
9. Read [James 2:8-11](#). The "royal law" is also referred to as the "law of love" in [Matthew 22:36-40](#). What is the solution to defeating favoritism? What is favoritism equal to? How does seeing yourself as vulnerable to sin and being grateful for God's mercy and grace affect how you see others? How does this fight favoritism?
10. Read [James 2:12-13](#). James is speaking to believers, so the judgment he describes is not in terms of our eternal destination. What is the reward for those who obey the law of love? What is the result for those who judge without mercy? How can mercy triumph over judgment?
11. Every person has a need to belong. Acceptance is the opposite of favoritism. How could our church help people feel like they belong in our community? What difference could this make in individual lives? To the kingdom of God? If the people in the Church all did this, how might it impact our world?
12. How could you obey the law of love this week by treating someone like royalty? What specific things could you do to communicate that they are significant and precious to God? How could you personally fight favoritism?

PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that you would be aware of ways you tend to show favoritism this week and to step outside your comfort zone to treat all people as valuable and significant kids of the King.